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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MMB Docket No. 1671-0281

J & J Reference: **DEP5038USNP**

Group Art Unit: **3732**

In re patent application of: **Keeven et al.**

Examiner: **Annette R. Reimers**

Serial No. **10/748,449**

Confirmation No. **2371**

Filing Date: **December 30, 2003**

For: **Augments for Surgical Instruments**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 14, 2005

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December 14, 2005

Date of Signature

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In connection with the Office Action dated July 14, 2005 in the above-entitled application, Applicants respectfully request a two (2) month extension in which to file a response, from October 14, 2005 to December 14, 2005.

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The fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) is submitted herewith. Also, please provide any further extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 13-0014, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 14, 2005
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